

tuesque attitude. At the moment I do not happen to know just who Lieut.-Col. Starke, the genial commanding officer of the "Vics" represented, but in his well powdered wig and war paint he looking becomingly solemn and wise. Lieut.-Col. Burland, as aide to the governor, read His Excellency's proclamation in a distinct loud voice. Lieut. Col. Butler, Captain Ostell, of the 65th, Captain Hooper, of the Field Battery, and Major Reid, of the Garrison Artillery, also represented fathers of confederation.

Major Perley, of the headquarters staff, Ottawa, will be the lecturer at the military institute next Saturday. On the 16th the lecturer will be Captain English, of the Royal Military College, and on March 2nd, Captain Lee of the same institution.

#### Garrison Artillery.

The battalion was to have had a march out Saturday 26th, but it had to be postponed owing to the heavy snow storm.

#### Prince of Wales Regiment.

At the last quarterly meeting of officers Mr. James Hardisty Smith, son of Sir Donald A. Smith, was elected an officer of the regiment.

#### Victoria Rifles.

The annual meeting of the officers took place Monday, 28th Jan., when the programme for the season was discussed.

### Open Letters.

The sweeping charges made by the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE of January 1st, against the Headquarter's Staff and militia administration, are of so grave a nature and reveal such an unsatisfactory condition of affairs as to call for the immediate adoption of such remedial measures as may enable the force to acquire some semblance of existence and efficiency. A careful study of the annual reports of the Department of Militia and Defence for the past few years, will reveal many valuable suggestions, the adoption of which would have promoted the general prosperity and efficiency of the whole force. As we cannot expect even the most capable to succeed without proper means, let us therefore be careful and blame only those who are responsible for the continuance of the present state of affairs, and who have systematically neglected to introduce the many needful reforms so urgently and frequently pressed upon their notice. If "ignorance" and "incompetence" are the stumbling-blocks in the way of progress, by all means have them removed, for to ensure our militia attaining a fair standard of efficiency we must have capability and energy with common sense operating on a good system.

It was a surprise to learn that the new rifle, the Martini Metford, is not the "beau-ideal service weapon" we were led to expect. The GAZETTE reports the rifle "is so badly balanced as to be almost impossible to hold it to the shoulder."

"excessively heavy" and "inaccurately sighted." One might naturally enquire, whether these defects were observed in the preliminary test and if so, why were they overlooked? I suppose, it would be right to assume, that the weapon was put through an exhaustivetriar prior to its final adoption by the Government?

It may be said that the Metford system of rifling is generally acknowledged to be one of the best. The sighting of a rifle, no matter how carefully constructed, can only be an approximate arrangement, as variations in the atmosphere, attitude, &c, &c., cause a material difference in the elevation. The great defect of the Martini-Henry rifle is the excessive energy of recoil, caused by the want of sufficient metal in the barrel, probably this defect was guarded against in the construction of the new rifle which is said to have "little or no recoil" an advantage which can be appreciated by the riflemen who have experienced the lively "kick" of the Martini-Henry. It is to be hoped the coming session will see something done to promote the well-being of the force.

It is the bounden duty of our Parliamentary representatives, irrespective of party, to insist upon the militia being kept in a state of efficiency.

My object in writing this letter, is not to combat the views of the GAZETTE, but to emphasize the necessity of immediate reform in the present system, which is proving so destructive to the rural battalion, which "are the back-bone of our militia."

Yours faithfully

J. R.

### Blind Wheelman of Paris.

'In one of the most aristocratic quarters of the city, where the gilded dome of Napoleon's tomb and the twin towers of St. Francois Xavier are sentinels over historic association, lies the beautiful *Boulevard des Invalides*, a long, tree-shaded avenue, where sounds march in list slippers and the perfume of flowering shrubs envelopes the senses. One plump shoulder of this charming drive is made interesting by a little grouped commotion every Thursday afternoon. Through an imposing iron gateway, into the center of the street, is rolled a curious looking machine of the velocipede order. It consists of nine largest sized bicycles joined together in a chain by means of nickel bars, the guide, the second, in front. In its wake follow eight young men, of about eighteen, dressed in a uniform of dark blue, with gilt buttons, flat caps and heels, the pantaloons neatly caught around the ankle by clamps. Neat cuffs and collars and well trimmed hair, show careful attention to the person. The expression of the faces is cheerful, almost gay, the carriage straight and manly, but gentle and unforceful. This, with a certain timidity of bearing, makes one glance again to see that the party is *entirely blind*. They have walked through the gateway, crossed the sward, and reached the queer machine without guide or direction, and commence at once that masonic trick of adjustment of wheel and handle known to the bicycle fraternity. Chattering and smiling, each of the eight finds his special steed and stands beside it."—FANNIE EDGAR THOMAS, *Outing for February*.

## MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS 1895.

HEADQUARTERS.

5th January, 1895.

#### G. O. 1.

This order is an extract of Army order 163, dated Nov. 1st 1894, relative to marches.

#### G. O. 2.

Guards of Honour and Escorts for His Excellency the Governor General.

1. Guards of Honour to attend on His Excellency the Governor General will consist, when practicable, of the following detail with the Regimental Colour:—

- 1 Captain.
- 2 Lieutenants, or 2nd Lieutenants.
- 4 Sergeants.
- 4 Corporals.
- 95 Privates.

Total 107 all ranks.

In addition to the above, pay will be allowed for band, drummers and buglers of the strength authorized in the Establishment List.

Pay will likewise be allowed for the Adjutant, or Acting-Adjutant, and for the Regimental Paymasters-Clerk of the battalion furnishing the Guard of Honour.

2. An escort for His Excellency the Governor General shall consist, when practicable, of,—

- 1 Captain.
- 2 Subalterns.
- 1 Troop Sergeant Major.
- 3 Sergeants.
- 3 Corporals.
- 1 Trumpeter.
- 27 Privates.

Total 38 all ranks.

#### G. O. 3.

Transfer Receipts—Active Militia.

1. The Transfer Receipts of Officers handing over their command of Units of the Active Militia will be made out in duplicate and issued by the officers retiring.

2. These Receipts will be transmitted to Headquarters, Ottawa, by the Deputy Adjutant General; one copy of the receipt will be filed in the Adjutant General's Office, with the record of the officer's retirement, and the other transmitted to the Store Branch.

#### G. O. 4.

Mobilization.

1. 16th "Prince Edward" Battalion of Infantry, No. 5 Company.

The headquarters of this Company is changed from Demorestville to Rossmore. (A.G.O. 54335)

2. 51st Battalion of Infantry, "Hemmingford Rangers."

The distribution of the Companies of this Battalion will, in future, be as follows:—

- No. 1 Company, Havelock.
- No. 2 Company, Lacolle.
- No. 3 Company, Hemmingford.
- No. 4 Company, Roxham.
- No. 5 Company, Riverfield.
- No. 6 Company, St. Remi.

(A.G.O. 53828.)

3. 64th Battalion of Rifles, "Voltigeurs de Beauharnois."

The distribution of the Companies of this Battalion will, in future, be as follows:—

- No. 1 Company, Beauharnois.
- No. 2 Company, Beauharnois.
- No. 3 Company, Valleyfield.
- No. 4 Company, St. Louis de Gonzague.
- No. 5 Company, St. Timothé.

(A.G.O. 53828.)